WENDELL POST

Dec./Jan. '93/'94, Vol. XVIII, no.4

50¢ (cheap)

LET'S GET IT STRAIGHT!
-Unrecognized Donations-

How did the cords of wood get behind the old town garage and why were they there?

The answer lies with Dr Danny Bacigalupo, tree warden, who also functions as divine and miraculous highway department foreman. Along with his waterproof crew, Jim Paddock and Alan Walsh, Dan cut, sawed, hauled and delivered the cord wood to the site as a donation in a raffle to help pay off the artesian well expenses.

"I was talking with Elizabeth Scully, one of the Golden Agers, and they were having a raffle to raise money for the well and it made sense to give the wood.

"Oh! So that was your brain storm?"

"Yeh! I get in that kinda trouble!" Danny quipped.

The kind of trouble our tree warden likes to enjoy is the kind that helps the town.

As years have passed, storm damaged or rotting roadside trees fall and make travel impossible. The tree warden is "called out" in all weather and "in all hours of the night" to saw up, drag off and dispose of the harvest. Does he haul it home and sleep on the proceeds, I asked?

"Nope. I don't need that. We give it away. I have my own business and do about 70 or 80 cord a year. Ted (Lewis) usually knows who could use it and we take it there... We collect about three cord."

Senior citizens or the ill receive the wood that is cut along the road or removed from the road itself. But this year, in addition to giving to them, Danny found they had enough wood for both causes.

Ted Lewis (selectman) said there is an old rule of thumb that the landowner has first dibs on the wood but if they neglect to collect it after a week or so, then the highway dept. collects it and stores it behind the old garage. And in Wendell, since the tree warden and the highway department work in conjunction, it is up to the warden's discretion to disperse it accordingly.

The town now has a secure source of water at the town hall due to the fundraising efforts and donations of many. In addition to the wood raffle there have been private donations, donations made in the honor of Eugene Whitham who died recently. Mary Fairbrother donated a homemade quilt in a raffle, Henshaw Well of Templeton, Ma gave the town a special deal in the drilling, Jay Blackbird donated free wiring, Harold Burnett and Ted Lewis worked for extra hours on the trench dug by the highway crew, the Wendell Coffee House sponsored the cause for one of its evenings, Anne Diemand and others spearheaded the effort.

The $5,000 bill is now paid off in full.

Nina Keller

S.T.A.R.
"SMALL TOWNS AGAINST REPRESSION"

The Town of Wendell continues to play a leadership role in S.T.A.R., a coalition of communities with large tracts of state-owned lands. S.T.A.R.'s mission is to restore the state funding for payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) to the legal standard set by Mass. General Laws and to establish the use of local assessments on state-owned land for calculating the PILOT amounts. Wendell has been severely hurt by the elimination of $20 million in PILOT monies from the State Budget in 1987, with little redress from the partial restoration to $6 million in 1990 which has been level-funded to date and is expected to meet the payments-in-lieu-of-taxes debt for 294 cities and towns in the Commonwealth.

Wendell Selectboard Member Anne Zak sits on the executive committee of STAR as Treasurer, thanks to the able assistance of Wendell Town Treasurer Judy Wilder. Regina Curtis, New Salem/Wendell Shared Administrative Assistant, has been very active in S.T.A.R. as well, having worked on two state-wide recruitment campaigns which have resulted in a 363% increase in S.T.A.R.'s membership. Currently, there are 37 member towns, representing an aggregate population of 184,300 people. Also, S.T.A.R. has caught the attention of State Auditor Joseph DeNucci, who has named the payments-in-lieu-of-taxes issue as a concern of the State Division of Local Mandates office. A representative from the State Auditor's Office attended the December S.T.A.R. meeting and began a fact-finding mission to acquaint the Auditor with concerns of S.T.A.R. member communities. We are *very* hopeful that this new involvement by the Auditor will give S.T.A.R. the clout it needs to influence the Legislature to restore PILOT funding.

Also, Senator Stan Rosenberg was represented at the December 2nd meeting and notified S.T.A.R. of a study currently in progress to learn how other states deal with the PILOT issue. Finally, newly-redistricted Representative Steven Kulik has contacted S.T.A.R. to express his interest in the issue and to begin formulating a strategy for future legislative initiatives to restore PILOT funding. Of course, the legislative delegations for all S.T.A.R. member communities have been apprised of the status of S.T.A.R. and we hope to enlist their active support as well.

WENDELL POST

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Post policy is that every article be signed. We regret author credit omissions where authorship is unknown. We reserve the right to hold articles that we feel are negative and offensive, for staff discussion.

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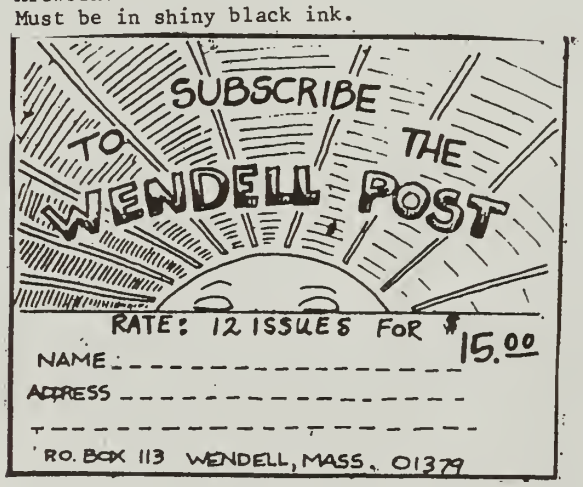
POST ARTICLE INSTRUCTIONS

All articles and letters submitted to the Post for publication need to be signed. If you have a computer, you can help by setting them in our style: 3 3/4" wide, 10 point font size, standard font. Indent three spaces for paragraphs, and do not use an extra space between paragraphs. Please be brief, to share our limited space. If you have questions, call a Post staffer.

Articles: The Post welcomes signed, concise articles about topics of interest to Wendell

Letters: The Post accepts brief letters. Remember, passion doesn't need to be mean.

Artwork: Local artwork lovingly accepted. Must be in shiny black ink.



LETTERS

SHARYN WILDER
BOX 174 BULLARD RD.
WENDELL, MASS. 01379

OCTOBER 6th, 1998

----- I LOST A FRIEND. ----- IT SOUNDS SO SIMPLE, SO TRIVIAL, AND YET IT'S SO FINAL. AND SO DARK IS THE VOID IT LEAVES THAT MERE WORDS CANNOT PENETRATE ITS CONCEPT.

-----HE CALLED ME IRISH, HE CALLED ME CRAZY, AND HE WAS THE FIRST PERSON IN THIS WORLD I RESPECTED OF MY OWN FREE WILL. NOT THE ONLY PERSON, BUT CERTAINLY THE FIRST.

AS I SIT HERE REMINISCING THE DAY 30 YEARS AGO WHEN I MET HIM, THE YEARS FALL AWAY AND ONCE AGAIN I'M JUST A 13 YEAR OLD BRAT, TIRED AND HUNGRY, HITCHIKING A MISERABLE STRETCH OF ROAD IN WARWICK. THE SUN IS DROPPING, AND ONCE AGAIN CRYSTALIZING SUGAR TURNS THE FOREST TREES INTO SPINDLES OF COLOR AND LIGHT WHICH THE SUN TOUCHES IN SHADES OF GOLD, AND I CAN SEE THE BATTERED CAR; THE GRUFF BUT KIND MAN BEHIND THE WHEEL. AS THE CAR ROLLS TO A STOP AND I OPEN THE DOOR, I CAN SMELL THE PITCHY MUSK OF THE SAWMILL MINGLING WITH THE MORE SUBTLE HINTS OF RIPE GARDENS AND WOODSMOKE. TO THIS DAY THE TANG OF FRESH PITCH IN THE AIR REMINDS ME OF EUGENE

-----HE WAS ALWAYS THERE. ALWAYS THAT, AND HE SEEMED TO POP UP WHERE YOU NEVER EXPECTED HIM, USUALY JUST ABOUT IN TIME TO BAIL YOU OUT OR BACK YOU UP. BUT FOR THE MOST PART, THE TWO WORDS I'LL USE IN CONJUNCTION WITH DESCRIBING HIS GENEROUSITY ARE SIMPLE AND SUBTLE.

-----THE BOOTS IN THE BACK SEAT, THE ARMY JACKET WHEN FROST WAS HEAVY IN THE AIR; IT WOULD BE EASY TO SAY THAT WAY BACK THEN A FRIENDSHIP STARTED, THAT WITH THE "LEFTOVERS" FROM LUNCH AND THE LAST DREGS FROM A NOT QUITE EMPTY THERMOS A FRIENDSHIP STARTED THAT HELPED TEACH A MIXED KID HOW TO FIT IN, INEVITABLY CHANGING A LIFE, BUT TO SAY IT THAT WAY SOUNDS SO HOLLOW, -----SO OUT OF CONTEXT WITH REALITY IT MAKES ME CRINGE. HOW CAN I BRING INTO FOCUS, THE DIGNITY & DECENCY THIS MAN SHOWED ME. ----- I DONT KNOW.

I SAT HERE FOR HOURS LAST NIGHT TRYING TO FIND A WAY, AND PERHAPS I DID, TOO, IF ONE READS NOT ONLY THE LINES, BUT BETWEEN THEM, AS WELL.

IN AUGUST OF 1973 WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED IN WENDELL, I WROTE SOMETHING. AND I KEPT IT IN MY POCKET FOR A LONG TIME. I MET EUGENE IN LATE SEPT. OF 1973, AND AFTER AWHILE BEGAN TO REALIZE THAT THE URGENCY OF MY FOLDED SQUARE OF PAPER HAD BECOME SO RELAXED THAT I COULD CACHE IT AWAY WITH SOME OTHER THINGS I ALSO STILL HAVE, THESE 30 YEARS LATER.

EUGENE INSPIRED ME TO PUT THIS AWAY WITHOUT EVER KNOWING IT, AND NOW, STILL UNFORTUNATELY WITHOUT HIS EVER KNOWING IT, I WILL BRING IT OUT AND I WILL GIVE IT TO HIM, BECAUSE SOMEHOW, IT FEELS RIGHT.

ORIGIONAL TITLE;
A DEATH WISH; MY DEATH WISH.

LEAVE ME NO GRAVE TO WEEP OVER
WHOSE DARK RISING MOUND
BRINGS SORROW TO THE HEART
REGRET TO THE MIND

NO, LET ME BLOW FREE IN ASHES
FREE TO ROAM AS I WILL
AND LEAVE THE RAIN TO WASH ME
THE SUN TO DRY ME
AND THE WIND TO COOL ME

REMEMBER ME NOT, WITH TEARS AND REMORSE
BUT WITH INSTEAD;
THE RINGING HOWL OF A LONE WOLF
THE PIERCING SHRIEK OF A CIRCLING EAGLE
THE FIRE IN A STALLIONS EYE
AND THE LAST SINGLE STAR BEFORE DAWN.

I MISS YOU, EUGENE,
& FORAWAYS, —SHARYN—

8.20 73
SHARYN B.E. COSBY - 1973-

Post Mail

Antioch New England
Graduate School
Roxbury Street
Keene, NH 03431
603-357-3122

KEENE, NH - Mr. Joseph J. Coll,Jr. of Wendell, MA has recently been accepted for graduate studies at Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene, NH. Mr. Coll is pursuing a Master of Education degree with a specialization in Integrated Day. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Kean College of New Jersey in Union, NJ. Mr. Coll is employed by the Shutesbury Elementary School in South Deerfield, MA as a Special Education Instructor.

Antioch New England Graduate School has been educating adult learners for over a quarter of a century and offers masters programs in Education, Environmental Studies, Management, Resource Management and Administration, Counseling Psychology, Dance/Movement Therapy, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Substance Abuse/Addictions Counseling; and an APA-accredited doctoral program in Clinical Psychology.

W.R.A.T.S. REPEATEDLY ROBBED

The Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station, "WRATS", was robbed several times in the last five months. Many tools, cash, and other items have been stolen. Vandalism has also occurred. Security at WRATS is being tightened and the local police are "keeping an eye on it" according to investigating Officer Ann Diemand.

On August 14th, a clock was reported stolen and shelves were vandalized. On September 28th, a stolen ladder was reported. November 27th the lock on the main gate and a fire extinguisher disappeared.

The worst theft occurred on October 23rd. The office was "almost cleaned out" according to Parker Cleveland, WRATS attendant. Many tools were taken including bolt cutters, a battery powered drill, socket sets, screwdriver sets, wrench sets, and a shovel. Cash from the Fire Department and the Town Hall Well Fund was missing. Even the telephone and Parker's eyeglasses were stolen!

Parker told me that this has been very aggravating to him and that it makes the work harder. He said he tries not to be bothered by it, but it makes him wonder about people's ethics. He believes whoever is responsible is lacking in community spirit.

Parker said the Board of Health has appropriated some extra money to replace the basic missing tools. He said they are in the process of having the locks changed at the facility. He is also studying other ways of increasing security.

Anne Diemand told me that because this is an on-going investigation she can not say very much. She did say that the Wendell Police are keeping more of an eye on the facility.

Linda Hickman

Caught in the act--
Annie Hartjens,
Wendell Depot Postmaster

CHRISTMAS CANDY HOUSE at the Wendell Depot Post Office

Wendell artist Mark Ceria has created a fantastic Christmas Candy House on display at the Wendell Depot Post Office. Constructed of cardboard with a candy coating and Christmas cookie siding, it has sugar wafer shutters, candy cane corners, and a roof dripping with snowy icing covering Necco wafers and chocolate nonpareils. None other than Santa is standing on the roof, ready to jump down the red gumdrop chimney with his bag of toys.

Surrounding the house is an enclosure of nougat and caramels, icy gumdrop trees, a blue candy cane weed patch, a patch of red stemmed maraschino cherries, and a skating rink mirror embedded in the coconut and white chocolate snow.

Mark was inspired not only by childhood nostalgia, but also by the movie "The Nightmare Before Christmas" now showing at your local theatre, which depicts Holiday Forests with incredible snow scenes and dreamlike villages and houses.

Mark says that when he was a child candy houses were as ubiquitous as Santa at Christmastime. He would get candy house construction kits with Necco Wafer roofs, a large slab of caramel for the door, and caramels with white centers for the ground.

Be sure to get yourselves and your children down to the Depot before the Christmas munchkins come to devour this incredible edible work of art!

Photo and story
by Gloria Kegeles

The Wendell Meeting House

RESTORATION PLANNED

With the cold weather upon us, our Meetinghouse is being prepared for one last event before its winter hibernation. If things go as planned, it will awaken in the Spring to a major restoration!

Mez and Gail are working with Jerry Eide to prepare grant applications for historical restoration. The major restorations will be: removal of the cement pad in the front and installation of a handicap-accessible ramp; replacement of the front sill; shoring up the floor; a kingpin truss system; and a new heater. They hope to get running water, a bathroom, and a deep artist's sink; upgrade the electrical system; and renovate the tin ceiling currently covered by ceiling tiles.

If townspeople listen carefully on December 10 in the late afternoon, we will hear the bell ringing in the Meetinghouse belltower in celebration of the wedding there of Libah Cobb and Andy Hamilton! The bell hasn't been rung in years, but--thanks to Jerry Eide--structural supports and wooden pegs will shore up the tower in time to ring in this wonderful event.

Gail and Mez's vision is to honor the original purpose of a New England meetinghouse, and turn it into a year-round community building available for many more activities. The renovations will make this possible, as the building will be warmer and have needed facilities.

Charles Smith still holds his Sunday service in the Meetinghouse. Other activities envisioned include art classes, dance classes, Sunday afternoon live classical music, old movies, chess tournaments, ping-pong, and a gallery for local artists.

Let us join Gail and Mez in making this a reality.

Gloria Kegeles

Wendell Weather-1993

	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
Avg. H Temp(*)	57(58)	70(70)	77(77)
Avg. L Temp	34(33)	45(45)	52(53)
Mean Temp	45.7	57.0	64.4
Avg Mean(88-92)	45.4	58.1	65.8
Rainfall(")	4.96	1.91	1.90
	JULY	**AUG**	**SEPT**
Avg H Temp	82(83)	79(78)	67(70)
Avg L Temp	58(58)	58(58)	50(47)
Mean T.	70.0	68.7	58.4
Avg Mean(88-92)	70.1	68.4	58.3
Rainfall(")	5.36	3.9	4.51

(*) - Average H and L temperatures for the period 1988 - 1992

Temperatures for the past 6 months were fairly normal. May and June were very dry with only half the normal rainfall expected. July's high rainfall total fell mostly in 4 thunderstorms, each of which dropped over an inch of rain. September was rainy with precipitation falling on 16 of the 30 days in the month. I recorded the first frost on the 20th of September, the earliest I have recorded since 1988.

Bill Lafley

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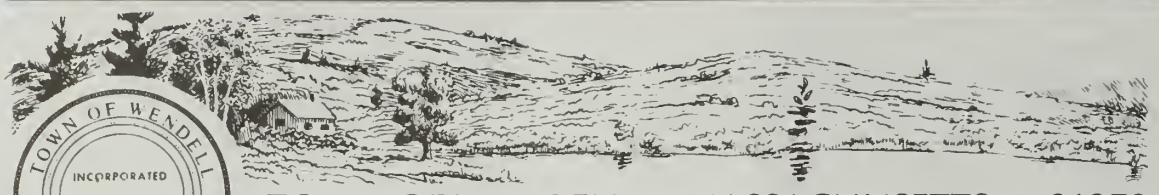

TOWN OF WENDELL MASSACHUSETTS 01379

TOWN HALL 508 544 3395

~SELECTBOARD MINUTES~

Wendell Selectboard Meeting October 5, 1993 - Minutes -
Members present: Margo Culley, Anne Zak, Ted Lewis/Minutes read and approved/Warrants signed/Correspondence reviewed.

Frank Zak, Principal of Mahar Regional High School, attended the meeting to discuss the formation of the new school council. Mahar's Council will comprise of 2 teachers, 1 non teaching staff member, 4 parents, 2 students and 2 community members (1 from government and 1 from business). Each person will have a one year term. The community members will rotate from the four towns involved. Since the rotation will be alphebetically reversed, Wendell will be first Mr. Zak said. He requested one member from the Selectboard or the Finance Committee. They will meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month starting October 6, 1993. Lee Trousdale, Chairman of Wendell's Fin Com, will ask Dan Keller to represent Wendell on this Council.

Mr. Zak said this Council will act in an advisory capacity only and that the School Board will still be responsible for setting policy.

Sid Mann and his Forester, Carl Davies, attended the meeting to discuss the legal ownership of a certain parcel of land for which Mr. Mann has been paying taxes. Ted Lewis will consult with Town Counsel on this matter.

Steve Nagy of Lake Grove School attended the meeting at the request of the Selectboard. The Selectboard and some concerned citizens, Victor Scutari and Rossalie Rosser, explored with Mr. Nagy the internal workings of the school and the need for better communication between the school and the community.

Christine Heard attended the meeting to formalize her appointment to the Swift River School Board.

Laura Doughty informed the Selectboard of her resignation to the Planning Board because of time constraints.

Ted Lewis signed the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs contract for the Releaf Grant. The contract was made between EOEA and the Town of Wendell, although the grant request was sponsored by the Wendell Golden Age Club.
The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

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Wendell Selectboard Meeting - Minutes - 10/12/93
Present: Ted Lewis, Chair; Margo Culley; Anne Zak and Administrative Assistant Regina Curtis.
Claire McGinnis, Swift River School Committee Member, attended to request that the Board vote on 2 items:
1) To classify all School Committee members as Special Municipal Employees and 2) to exempt Clair McGinnis from the Conflict of Interest provision. Ms. McGinnis made this request pursuant to a learning that she could not be paid for her work as a part-time aide at the school unless such a vote was made in the affirmative and that this was the only mechanism to accomplish that. After a lengthy discussion with Ms. McGinnis and consulting a reference book to determine the legal implications, the Board voted to grant both requests, although Item 1 was amended to limit the duration of the Special Municipal Employee Status until 12/31/93. Ms. McGinnis must also obtain a similar vote from the New Salem Selectboard.
Town Administrative Assistant Regina Curtis reviewed the Dept. of Revenue Municipal Law Workshop she attended on 10/6 in West Springfield.
The Board was notified of the MMA Workshop for Selectmen scheduled for November 13th.
Regina Curtis updated the Board on the STAR meeting she attended on 10/7 in Washington. STAR is continuing its plans for a Small Town Conference to be held in the Spring in Worcester. The Star Board approved the expense of having the State-owned land booklet copied and distributed to all STAR members. They also approved the expense for another mass mailing which will be done to those towns listed in the book to recruit them to join STAR. Regina Curtis also updated the Board on the Releaf Grant Awarding Ceremony and the Governor's Cabinet Meeting, both of which she attended on 10/8 in North Adams.
The Finance Committee joined the meeting and discussed the school financing issues which have arisen under Ed Reform. Regina Curtis and Finance Committee members Lee Trousdale and Dan Keller will attend a meeting in Holyoke on 10/20 to discuss individual school/town situations with the Dept. of Education and the Dept. of Revenue.
Anne Zak will represent the Town on the Mahar School Council.
The meeting at 9:15 p.m.

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Wendell Selectboard Meeting October 19, 1993 - Minutes -
The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m./members present: Margo Culley, Anne Zak, Ted Lewis/minutes read and approved/warrants signed/correspomdence reviewed.

The Board reaffirmed the vote of September 21, 1993 which declared a single tax classification in Wendell.

Board members signed the Tax Allocation Classification form.

The Selectboard reviewed the Revaluation of Wendell properties which was certified by the Department of Revenue.

Applications for Town Hall rentals were reviewed and signed by Board members.

Regina Curtis, Administrative Assistant, will attend the Massachusetts Electric Company's meeting scheduled for Monday October 25, 1993 at 8:00 a.m. to be held in their Athol office. The meeting is planned to improve communications with their customers around the subject of storm restoration procedures.

Board members signed the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority contract permitting the contractor to start work on the Senior Center.

The Selectboard held a lengthy discussion regarding the purchase or possible exchange of land for the purpose of a recreational field for Wendell,s youth. They will request Jessie Wetherby, Wendell's Tax Assessor, submit a list of all Town owned property for further review.

Board members discussed once more the need for concerned citizens to become involved and volunteer their services for such committees as the Planning Board, the Finance Committee, etc.
The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting October 26, 1993 - Minutes -
The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m./Those present were: Margo Culley, Ted Lewis, Regina Curtis, Elizabeth Scully/Minutes read and approved/Correspondence reviewed.

Board members discussed possible recruits for the position of Animal Inspector.

The Board appointed Tom Hebert as a Wendell Police Officer.

In response to a request from the Reverend Diane Comish to use the Town Hall for Sunday Services, the Board suggested she seek permission to use the Meeting House instead. This in order to honor the law of separation of state and church.

The Selectboard proclaimed November the 18th "Smoke Free Day " in Wendell in response to a request from Athol Memorial Hospital.

The Board received a reminder from the State ABC Office of the legal times for liquor sales during the upcoming holidays.

Jean Daley and Ina Lavangie requested a Dog Hearing (a child was bitten by a neighbor's dog). It was set for November 9, 1993.

Rosie Heidkamp requested a warrant be added to the Special Town Meeting seeking the sum of $2000. to be raised and appropriated to be added to the Library's General Budget and used for storm windows, card files etc.

Members of the Finance Committee: Lee Trousdale, Dan Keller, and Donny Richardson, met with the Selectboard to discuss the tax assessment, a date for the Special Town Meeting, and the warrants to be included at the STM. The date of November 23, 1993 was agreed upon with a deadline for warrants submission to be November 2, 1993.
The Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

SELECTBOARD MINUTES continued ...

Wendell Selectboard Meeting Nov.2, 1993 - Minutes -
The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m./Those present: Ted Lewis, Margo Culley, Anne Zak, Elizabeth Scully, Selectboard Clerk/Minutes read and approved/Warrants signed/Correspondence reviewed.

The Reverend Diane Comish and her mother, also a Reverend, attended the meeting to request the use of the Wendell Town Hall for Sunday services. Board members explained that the laws requiring separation of state and church prohibits the use of a public building for this use. However, they suggested a church in Millers Falls and gave them the phone number of the minister of that church as a possible alternative.

The Board o.k.'d a request from Lisa Hoag who petitioned on behalf of The Full Moon Coffee House for a reduction in rental fees for the Town Hall for the month of October only.

Theodore Lewis was voted Representative of the Collective Bargaining Group for Swift River School. Mark Lewis, New Salem Selectman, was voted Alternative Representative.

The Board requested a letter be sent, on their behalf, to the FCRHA approving their request to increase the $20,000. deferred payment loan for a specific one family home by $3000.

The Board requested Regina Curtis write to Everett Rickets, Wendell's Fire Chief, seeking an appointment for the Quarterly Review of the Fire Department.

On the recomendation of Regina Curtis, the Board decided to postpone the signing of the service agreement for the copy machine. Ms. Curtis is checking into cost options for a new copy machine for the Town.

Ms. Curtis reported on a meeting she attended run by Mass. Electric regarding storm planning.

The Board reviewed the warrant draft for the Special Town Meeting which is scheduled for Nov. 23, 1993.

The Finance Committee joined the Selectboard for a further discussion of the warrant draft. Some changes were decided upon including the addition of an article placing monies into the Stabilization Fund.

The Selectboard welcomed Debra Becker as a new member of the Wendell Finance Committee and were pleased to learn that Mike Idoine may also join Fin Com.
The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting November 9, 1993 - Minutes -
Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m./members present: Margo Culley, Anne Zak, Theodore Lewis/also present: Regina Curtis, Administrative Assistant, Elizabeth Scully, Selectboard Clerk, Laura Chaisson, Reporter for the Athol Daily News/Minutes read and approved/corespondence reviewed.

Board members reviewed the redistricting sumary of the State House and Senate Representatives.

Regina Curtis received a Conference Scholarship for the Fall Meeting of the M M A. and will be able to attend as a representative for the Town of Wendell without any cost to the Town.

A Dog Hearing was held at 7:30 p.m. Those present were Jean Daley, Sean Daley, Ina Levangie, the complainants, Kathy Rubeck and Mr. Johnson, dog owners, and Maggie Houghton, Wendell Dog Warden. Ms. Houghton said she had received 18 complaints about the dogs either for being loose or for barking. The dog owners said the dogs are not vicious, although, the complaint brought by the Daley's concerned one of the dogs biting Ms. Daley's son, Sean. Ms. Rubeck said she is in the process of erecting a run and purchasing dog houses for her animals. Ms. Houghton and the Selectboard informed the dog owners of the law which states the animals will be impounded if found again unattended and off the owners' property.

Ms. Curtis is checking with the insurance company to see if a legal claim can be made for Kathy Becker, who was injured at the Town Hall.

Ms. Curtis reported on the STAR mailing to 248 cities and towns across Massachusetts. Its purpose is to solicit new members to join the quest to have the State pay monies in-lieu-of taxes for State owned land.
The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting November 16, 1993 - Minutes -
The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m./Members present were: Margo Culley and Ted Lewis/Also present: Elizabeth Scully, Selectboard Clerk, and The Athol Daily News Reporter, Laura Chiasson. The minutes were read and approved/Warrants signed/Correspondence reviewed.

The Board members discussed the composition of the letters the Wendell citizens will receive re: house numbering and street name changes for the 911 regulations.

The Board reviewed the draft of the warrant prepared by Regina Curtis for the Special Town Meeting scheduled for November 23, 1993.

Ms. Curtis will be seeking bids from several companies in order to get the best price for a new copy machine for the Town Offices. High costs for repairs on the one presently owned by the town makes consideration of the purchase feasible.

Board members are seeking volunteers for the poition of Inspector of Animals & Stables.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting November 30, 1993 - Minutes -
The meeting convened at 7:00p.m./Members present were: Anne Zak, Margo Culley and Ted Lewis/Also present: Elizabeth Scully and Laura Chiasson, Athol reporter.

Debbie Lapinski volunteered for the task of Animal Inspector. After reviewing her qualifications the Board appointed her. She was also appointed as Field Driver and Fence Viewer.

Board members will request a copy of "Form 19" from the Swift River School Board in order to have a better understanding of the School's budgetary system.

The Selectboard will send a letter to Richard and Victoria Shaw, owners of property on New Salem Road in Wendell, informing them of the Town's Bylaws which govern the number of unregistered vehicles allowed on their property.

The Board members reviewed Jonathon Von Ranson's letter re: a grant for rebuilding a stone wall at the Town garage. They agreed this request should go before the Town at a Special Town Meeting because of the matching Town funds and the In-Kind Services, Materials etc.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted
Elizabeth Scully

Elizabeth Scully
Selectboard Clerk

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Established 1974
Historic Renovation
Work Done With Care
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"All the Art That Fits"

"Thespian on a Golden Couch", by Jake Groton

Jake's Fresh Art! On Display at Green River Cafe

Bare trees and fresh air are frequent themes of Jake Graton's paintings, on display through December 20 at the Green River Cafe on Federal Street in Greenfield.

"If I were buying, I would take 'Arthur'--superb composition, color, and detail," says Bob Ellis, another of Wendell's fine artists. "It looks like the tree is growing into the sky and becoming part of the sky, which is really what happens," adds Bob.

"The tree radiates, picks up all this light which is reflecting on it. Once in a while you see that kind of light at sunset. It's sort of surreal--is it blue sky, or clouds?", comments Fran Doughty, whose own painting ability is blossoming under Jake's tutelage.

Even the interior painting of "Thespian on a Golden Couch" includes a painting of a bare tree and fresh air on the wall in back of the couch. Is this a painting of a painting, or simply a painting within a painting, one wonders? In any case, it's decidedly Jake's.

"Jake has a particular aptitude for rendering the texture of fabric and folds of cloth, e.g. in 'Between a Rock, a Rock and a Hard Place' and 'Thespian on a Golden Couch'," observes Laura Doughty. "Grandame" depicts a Tibetan woman with incredible detail in her face, and a brown jacket which appears as if real leather were glued onto the painting.

But what jumps out first and foremost is the vibrancy of the souls whose portraits Jake has painted. People who were complete strangers yesterday, or spotted occasionally around town, are now known to us.

Jake sees the forest for the trees--and for the people--and paints them.

Gloria Kegeles

"Kanin, My Son", by Jake Groton

Ellis '92

BOB ELLIS
Watercolors

P.O. Box 91
Wendell, MA 01379

413-659-3512

News From Swift River School

The Swift River School has been a busy place this fall. In September the school newspaper was started up again. Each week the school secretary puts news briefs of the week and important dates, etc. in the weekly flyer. Each month, volunteers get together to create quite an extensive newspaper (called "The Current") which is filled with classroom news, student contributions, and announcements.

September was also the time when the Volunteer Survey forms went out to all of the parents as well as the surrounding communities. It has been convenient for the staff to be able to find the help they need quickly and efficiently by using those volunteer survey forms. Fifty-two of those forms have been returned to the school so far this year! The school sends its heart felt thanks to all of you who have been able to help with school projects this fall.

In October, a School Council was formed. This Council is a new requirement of the state for public schools to have an objective group of adults (some from the community, some parents, and teachers) to oversee and help to form social policies and educational guidelines and goals for the school.

The School Fall Festival took place on the school grounds on a warm and sunny October day this year. It was a gay event, with homemade games and imaginative activities created and hosted by the various classrooms. There were also tag sales, book sales, clothing sales, a winter equipment sale, as well as many crafts. Inside was a steaming pot of homemade chili, and corn bread, and for desserts and snacks, there was a bake sale table loaded with an assortment of goodies. You even could choose out which apples you wanted to press for your own personal mug of cider. It was truly a wonderful day for all.

In November the School Directory was finished, thanks to hardworking volunteers, the secretary, and Swift River students. It has been distributed so that the Swift River School families can easily find one another.

In the first week of December, the school gym was buzzing with the excitement of a very successful and well organized pre-Christmas book fair. Thanks to volunteers who made that possible.

There is quite a variety of after-school activities offered to Swift River School students this year. They are hosted by various organizations. Some options available to the students so far include art classes, gymnastics, soccer,+ The Enchanted Forest After-School Arts program. Cub Scouts and Brownies have also used the school facilities.

It should be noted that every Wednesday morning from 8:50 to 9:15 there is an open and informal assembly which the public is invited to called "Community Share". It is held in the school cafeteria where the whole school gathers together with anyone from the community to sing, listen to informative and creative presentations by various classrooms who want to share a project they have been working on. Individuals or groups who have a talent or interest they want to share with the school, may perform at that time as well. I highly recommend it to anyone who is in the mood for half an hour of delightful early morning entertainment.

Much more has gone on at the school this fall than what I've thought to list here. You can see what I mean by reading the school newsletters, or attending the Wednesday morning Community Share, or examining the ever-changing displays in the cases along the corridors, or eavesdropping on a classroom... The school welcomes visitors, and values input from the community.

Molley Kaynor

Library News

There's alot of good library news these days. The town approved money to fund the library card catalog project. This $2,000 which is a one-time-only ependiture will enable the library to complete its card catalogue which is currently very limited. This will be an ongoing project and may take six months to a year to complete. Once completed, the card catalogue will be an asset to everyone who uses the library.

Thanks to the help of library staff and many volunteers, the library has undergone some significant transformations. I'm sure I will not be able to list them all here, but here are some that come to mind. There's an entirely "new and improved" layout of books, furniture and librarian's workspace; a new bookshelf for the juvenile non-fiction collection; the children's area is much more cozy and functional. Since most of the downstairs has been finished, the entire adult fiction collection resides there along with the copy machine, reading tables and computer. You'll notice the new railing to the downstairs and no need to worry about bumping your head on any low beams or overhangs--you'll see what I mean when you check out the new space downstairs.

These renovations have created alot more space upstairs for reading, doing homework, browsing, etc. Pleae note the new VIDEO DROP OFF SLOT which is in the door. One final note, a BIG THANK YOU from the trustees and Rosie to all those dedicated volunteers who've been keeping the library up and running all year. Enjoy the holidays--we'll see you at the library!

NEW TITLES
Adult Fiction:
Atwood, Margaret - The Robber Bride
Hillerman, Tony - Sacred Clowns
-Dance Hall of the Dead
Francis, Dick - Decider
Kay, Terry - To Dance with the White Dog
McKinley, Robin - Deerskin
Rice, Anne - Lasher
Waller, Robert James - Bridges of Madison County
Waller, Robert - Slow Waltz in Cedar Bend

Adult Non-Fiction:
Angelou, Maya - Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now
Angelou, Maya - On the Pulse of the Morning
Caysen, Susan - Girl Interrupted
Kidder, Tracy - Between Old Friends
Kramer, - Listening to Prozac
Weed, Susan - Menopausal Years
Moore, - Care of the Soul
Peck, Scott - Further Along the Road Less Travelled

Francis Doughty

NEWS FLASH!

The Wendell Good Neighbors is experiencing an acute cash shortage and has had to cut back its purchases from the Western Mass. Food Bank. If you can include Good Neighbors in your seasonal giving, please send a check to: Good Neighbors, c/o Wendell Town Offices, P.O. BOX 41, Wendell, MA 01379. One hundred percent of all donations go to direct services to your neighbors, and are tax-deductible. THANK YOU!

Free Box Children
Photo by Gloria Kegeles

SPECIAL MEETING RESULTS

****
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, WENDELL TOWN HALL, November 23, 1993 at 7:00 P.M.

With about 23 voters present, the Town had the opportunity to consider what to do with money left unappropriated when the State made changes in the way education is to be funded under the 1993 Education Reform Act. Contrary to a news story printed in a larger local paper, voters at this meeting did not vote in a way that violated the spirit of any earlier votes. This money had already been approved for spending for schools. When the State reworked the formulas for school spending at the local level, some of the money we had appropriated in Wendell became available for unspecified purposes.

In a nutshell, "this meeting had something for everyone. The people wanting tax rate cuts got something. Town services got something, school advocates got something, the people who want school cuts got something..." to paraphrase the analysis of Charles Smith, whom the Moderator drove home.

What voters did included some clean up work, paying some smallish bills of prior years from the Police Department and the Board of Health.

Budget cuts, in compliance with the Ed. Reform Act, were voted for all the schools. The assessment for Franklin County Technical School was reduced from $66,810 to $$59,806, Mahar from $203,263 to $179,808 and Swift River School from $268,381 to $234,276. By majority vote, the Town then voted to increase the Swift River Elementary School Account by $14,070---after the usual involved and heated discussion.

A memorable moment was when Selectboard member Margo Culley challenged Superintendent of Schools Leonard Lubinsky with her perception of the irony of his own 8% pay raise this year in light of the teachers' ongoing struggle with salary negotiations. Mr. Lubinsky stated that the schools are more important to him than such a raise, and he implied he would make a personal sacrifice in this area if that would make a difference to the vote. The voters observed Town Meeting decorum by not pursuing this divergence.

In other action, $150 was approved for a town-wide mailing (street name and number info), and $4,500 for road signs to comply with E-911 Emergency Management System.

$300 went to the Dog Officer Account for animal rabies inoculations, as the Dog Officer has been 100% successful in finding adoptive homes for strays, with the result that costs are being incurred for disease prevention rather than for animal destruction.

$2,000 went to the Wendell Free Library, which was ably represented. The Solid Waste Management Account was boosted by $374. It is anticipated that the $5,000 approved for purchase of a copier and fax machine for the Town Offices will be reimbursed by a grant.

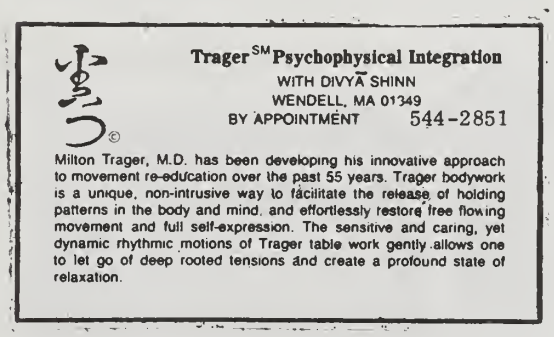
Another budget cut was a reduction in Comprehensive Insurance from $30,669 to $23,449.

Voters frugally put money away for a rainy day by appropriating $10,000 to the Stabilization Account.

Brand new Finance Committee members, not even sworn in yet, appeared at the front table and were warmly welcomed, Michael Idoine and Deborah Becker.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Becker
Town Moderator



Property Transfers

Harlowe L. Boinoff to MDC
6 acres, Cooleyville Road, $6,000.00 July 22, 1993.

Bank of America to Alphonse and Sandra Robichaud
12 acres and buildings, Valley Road off Colleyville Road, $45,000.00 July 29, 1993.

Kenneth E. Richard to Mason M. Phelps
44.5 acres, Rush Road, $15,000.00 August 9, 1993.

Domenic E. and Georgean R. Compagnone to Craig Townsend 6.28 acres, Locks Village Road, $5,000.00 August 19, 1993.

Bernard and Helen Crocker to Valley Community Land Trust, Inc. 4.353 acres and buildings, $20,000.00 Sept. 10, 1993.

Police Log

10/5 Unwanted parent at Maple Valley School.
10/23 B&E at WRATS.
11/7 Illegal dump reported on Farley Road.
11/7 One-car accident, Jennison Road. One 15-year-old male injured, taken to Franklin Medical Center.
11/26 Responded to an alarm on West Road.
11/27 B&E at WRATS.
11/29 Search for person who resisted arrest.
11/29 Anonymous caller reported hearing shots on Cooleyville Rd. at 10:00 pm.
11/30 Rosie Heidkamp reported library book return box vandalized.
12/10 Domestic on Montague Rd.

Tax Rate Set

Wendell Selectmen announced that the tax rate of $19.16 per $1,000 valuation has been approved by the state Department of Revenue.

Tax bills are currently being prepared for mailing, and will be due on Jan. 14, 1994.

Posting Place

Good Neighbors

The Good Neighbors co-operative food bank has new winter hours, and will be serving the community on Sundays from 4:00 to 5:00 pm.

Book Signing

The Wendell Country Store invites the Community to a Reading and Book Signing
by Batya Weinbaum
Author of The Island of Floating Women
Clothespin Fever Press
Sunday, February 13 at 2:00 p.m. at the Store.

For the comfort of all we request that customers refrain from smoking in the store from 1 to 4 p.m.

Building Inspector

Wendell Building Inspector Dick Theis can be reached at 413-367-2178 for an appointment for building consultation, permits and inspection, with flexible scheduling.

Tax Collector Hours

TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER
Saturdays: 1st and 3rd of each month from 9-11 a.m.; Tuesdays 7-9 p.m. by appointment only. Phone 544-8617.
Judith Wilder.

Liquor Licence Renewed

A renewal of the liquor sales license for the Wendell Country Store was signed by selectmen. The license allows the store to sell liquor seven days a week.

SUPPORT
WENDELL FIRE DEPARTMENT
T-SHIRTS - $10.00
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Bear Mountain Masonry
Heat Saving Stoves & Fireplaces A Specialty
Tom Sullivan
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Jonathan von Ranson
(508) 544-3758
191 Thompson Rd.
Wendell, MA 01379

PRESS
Wendell Post Reporter

MAHAR REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

HONOR ROLL

SENIORS
All A's:
Thomas Soule, Wendell
All A's and B's:
Wendell:
Lianna F. Mattson
JUNIORS
All A's:
Rebecca Silver, New Salem
All A's and B's:
Wendell:
Jesse Clark Davis
Johanna M. Heard
Jason A. Stowell
SOPHOMORES
All A's:
Rebecca Leigh Snyder, Wendell
All A's and B's:
Wendell:
Amy E. Golding
Noah Lawrence-Slavas
Aubin O. Maynard
Jacob Smith
Anna R. Wetherby
New Salem:
Kyle J. Eastman
Laura Hayden
FRESHMEN
All A's:
Molly R. Altman, New Salem
Nathan E. Boland, Wendell
All A's and B's:
Wendell:
Chrystina J. Cleveland
Melinda Hatch
EIGHTH-GRADERS
All A's:
Wendell:
Kyle Gilman
New Salem:
Lindsay Anne O'Connor
Allison M. Rodman
Adam Schoenberg
All A's and B's:
Wendell:
Jacob O. White-Diemand
Sarah Beth Woodward
Cheryl Lowell

New Salem:
Melissa Colby
SEVENTH GRADERS
All A's:
Wendell:
Sarah E. Golding
Caralee U. Manley
Brian K. Puchalski
Rosalie Rosser's Grandchild:
Lisa Ferris
All A's and B's:
Wendell:
Charlsie M. Baleno
Meghan M. Clark
Trista M. Clough
Debi L. Ryznic
Jay A. Snyder
Steven C. Haggett
New Salem:
Korrin K. Torchia
Elias J. Altman
Katie A. Aubre

The above list of students shows what good parenting and schooling is going on around here. Congratulations to these students for their excellent efforts.

We hope this list is complete. The patrons at the Wendell Country Store sat at the counter pouring over a large list of regional Honor Roll students to lift out our own Swift River School graduates. We apologize for any omissions. Mahar has agreed to give us an official local list in the future, for which we are grateful, as knowing what fine students are coming out of our town is a source of pride.

The Country Store Crew

'Ugliest' Mailbox in Wendell Contest.

The first snowfall of the season has come to Wendell. If last year was any example, we can expect much more to come our way. Please, pay special attention to your outside mailbox so that your letters and packages are well protected. Kindly check to see that your mailbox is securely mounted, and when you shovel, be sure to shovel out enough to allow us to drive up to your mailbox.

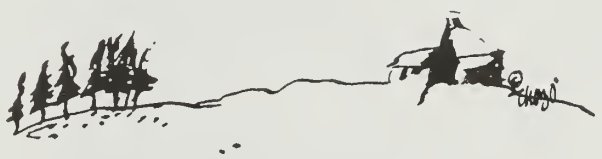
While I am on the topic of Mailbox Pride and Appreciation, at our last Postmaster's Coffee Hour on Halloween, we selected a winner in this year's "Ugliest Mailbox Contest". We had a large number of creative entries, and the winner is ... Dona O'Dou of Locke's Village Road. Ms. O'Dou was presented with a new Postmaster General-approved mailbox to remember the occasion.

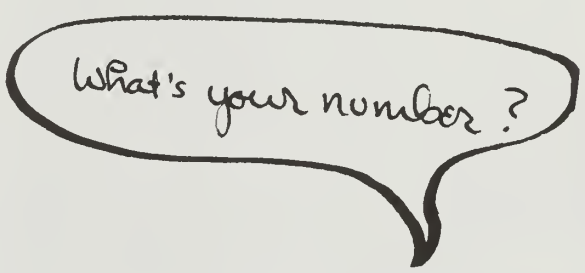
I have a seasonal advisory, if you are mailing overseas, do so right away. If you come in to the office, we will be very happy to help you with your needs. (Please, please remember to include a second card inside your packages that contains the TO and FROM ADDRESSES.)

If you are looking for a special kind of gift, consider a stamp album or something practical such as a book of stamps for your children away from home. This year's Holiday Stamps are brightly colored, and the children will like the "Frostie the Snowman" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" stamps especially.

It has been a pleasure to serve you this year. On behalf of the U.S. Postal Service, and its employees living and working in Wendell, we extend our best to you and your loved ones during this joyous Holiday Season.

Charles O'Dowd





Did you get your letter from the Wendell Town Clerk advising you of your official street name and number? Letters have gone out and citizens have 90 days from Jan. 1 to post their 4-6 inch numbers in a visible place. The reason for this numbering is to comply with standards necessary to join a 911 Emergency System. The numbers will help fire trucks, ambulances and emergency crews find our houses if we need help.

from #136 Lock Hill Road

NEW PARTNERSHIP AT WENDELL COUNTRY STORE

Since the new owners took over from Cheryl Perkins, various changes have been made by them. Patti and Vic Scutari had run a soup kitchen on Long Island for ten years and this gives them a unique perspective on the food business.

Another couple already living in Wendell and well known here, Rosalie and Bob Rosser are now partners in the business and full-time managers. Bob has been working to put in new shelves and made other changes. Rosalie is handling ordering and other day-to-day functions to streamline the operation of the store to make it more pleasing and efficient for all concerned.

In addition to painting the floor and general cleaning, they have put in a sky-light, rearranged the shelves and upgraded the electrical system. Their goal is to make the store and the restaurant truly a community place, accessible to any one. They have lowered store prices across the board and expanded the stock of vegetables, and health foods to make the store a place where one can do one's shopping and thus save a trip down the hill to another town.

The restaurant menu now includes vegetarian specialties, homemade soups, large muffins, and various baked goods by Helen Grow. On a daily basis they serve breakfast,lunch and dinner, and coffee and pastries almost any time. There is now a non-smokers' table.

Vic feels that "the community has supported us, and we plan to help support the community." The entire family is thriving in Wendell, he claims---that's Vic and Patti, 4 kids, 3 cats and a dog. They have started a crafts shop to provide an outlet for local artists and artisans, brought in a copier and a fax machine, secured a new video distributor, and had the parking lot regraded.

Folks are cordially invited to visit the store and restaurant to see for themselves what has been accomplished.

Suggestions are welcomed. If practicable, more changes may be made to accommodate the needs of the community that is served.

Charles Thompson Smith

Editor's Note: We are proud to have good food and good companionship offered in both Wendell Center and Wendell Depot. Support your local businesses!

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Beaded Jewelry - Sales, Classes & Supplies
Stain Glass - Specializing in Esoteric Designs
18th Century Clothing
Ina Peebles-LeVangie
Rush Road • P.O. Box 274
Wendell, MA 01379
(508) 544-3414
Custom Orders Welcome

DONNA HORN
our cover artist!

A New Artist in Town

She seemed always to have been here, the first time I laid eyes on Donna Horn working the Wendell Country Store cash register last summer. Her spirited eyes and ready smile alluded to an unknown intensity. She made an off-the-wall comment to the customer in front of me. To her apologetic question, "Why did I say that?" I replied, "This is Wendell, you can say anything!" And her face lit up with feelings of acceptance, relief and happiness to be where anything goes.

Then in September, I understood the importance to Donna of anything goes. At the Wendell Harvest Festival, I came upon an art display in the Meetinghouse. "How bizarre, who did these?", I asked Donna, the person standing closest to me. "I did!" "Wow, they're bizarre and wonderful!" I said apologetically, but truthfully. Luckily, in Wendell you can say anything, and still be accepted. Make any artistic statement, and be appreciated.

Donna's is a statement as intense as her eyes. Despite their bright coloring, her papier-maché animals are so life-like, with their life-size bodies, real fur and glaring teeth, that one is led to suspend surreality and truly feel their presence as living, breathing creatures.

Says Donna, "In making something that's not real, surreal--you're bringing it to life, and you're giving it its own reality to be alive in."

"I would make a sculpture of a deer, but the colors were more the feeling of a deer--deer spirit painted on an animal. The color was like the animal's Chi--to make it alive. It's like art-life. If I made it realistic, it would not appear alive."

"I feel like things that I make really exist--energies that really are protective energies--not vicious --I see them as my protectors--my allies!"

The animals have names, e.g., Bob, George, Sven, Bess, but rarely are they females. "Their energy usually seems to be male once I'm done with them--the way men give female names to their cars."

Donna's work is a continuum from childhood, when she spent a great deal of time alone writing storybooks and illustrating them with horses, fish and monsters. She was always interested in how four-legged animals move.

Four years ago, Donna moved from two-dimensional paintings to three-dimensional assemblage, where the animals literally hang out of the paintings. Then they began to jump out and stand on their own as part of multi-animal installations. "I was kind of obsessed with a life and death motif. I would do installations in rooms, which were stages of dying and being reborn. The sculptures were parts of installations, like the parts of a book."

We saw the last animal from one installation at the Harvest Festival --Cecil the Deer of Death. In the full installation, a group of deer are bursting through the wall, wandering around and crashing through the floor. This assembly "deals with birth and death. It's a merging of two worlds. The deer are confused. Some are trying to get back through the wall to their world. Cecil is diving into the pool to his death."

Other installations in storage include a full pack of wolves, a life-size horse, and 300 birds.

Donna still makes paintings when she doesn't have the energy to put together a sculpture. Paintings are sometimes predecessors to the sculptures--an animal will come out in a painting and then be made into a sculpture.

Previously, Donna would relate an idea to an installation of many animals. Now, she is making individual animals which begin as an imaginary reality in her head. Individual sculptures are easier to transport and to sell.

Donna's work has been shown in Amherst, Easthampton, Northampton, Brookfield, Worcester and Springfield.

Originally from Sturbridge, MA, Donna received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from UMass in 1991, spent two years in Vermont, then returned to the area last summer. She discovered Wendell six years ago when she got lost here. Thereafter she would come for walks in the woods. For Donna, Wendell is "the best mixture I've ever found--an artists' community but also a wooded and farming community--a very rare bird here. ... I inherited chickens when I moved here--I like the Zen eggs."

WELCOME, DONNA!

Photos and story
by Gloria Kegeles

Buck (r.) stops here and meets Ralph (l.)

Donna with ally Agnes

Donna with ally Sven

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POST STAFFER IN JAIL

(paper comes unglued)

Stephen Broll is behind bars, the latest of a goodly number of Wendell citizens who have been jailed in recent months for vigiling in Colrain. The Wendell father, teacher, Post staffer and war tax refuser violated parole on a 1992 conviction of "wanton destruction of property." (He had helped repair--not destroy--the roof of the Colrain house seized by the IRS from Randy Kehler and Betsy Corner, but the roofing work was without authorization from its new occupants.)

His parole violation was in keeping with the theme of nonviolent tax refusal that has been a large part of his life for the past dozen years or more: vigiling last summer against a court injunction, "too near" the Colrain house with other protesters, then refusing to leave when warned to by police. Also convicted with him for that episode of nonviolent expression of belief were Bob Bady, Michael Klein and Vince O'Connor.

A domino-arrangement of court and administrative decisions now keeps Randy and Betsy out of their house. There's a chance this latest injunction will be struck down by the same legal processes that issued it, once the constitutional rights of free speech and assembly are weighed more carefully against the new occupants' disputed claims to the land--owned by the land trust--which Steve and his companions were vigiling on. Meanwhile, for their dubious crime and the parole violation it represented, Steve and Bob started serving 15-day sentences on December 8.

A patient and procedurally liberal judge, brought in from another jurisdiction, heard the trial. This removed the tension of a heavy court schedule. As the arresting officers testified, and as Steve and his codefendants spoke, the elements of the growing knot of issues--war tax refusal itself, the IRS's seizure of property, and the ongoing civil disobedience in Colrain--shone clear. In an atmosphere of the best the law has to offer, the IRS's reliance on threat and obedience stood in a kind of contrast. There is no provision for conscience in the realm of federal income taxation. My mind wandered as I wondered: does it injure all people to define pacifists as outlaws? Does this represent the sort of aggression against the spirit that precipitates physically violent crimes--child abuse and drive-by shootings, to name the current showcased symptoms? The Selective Service has provisions for conscience; why not the Internal Revenue Service? Money has the curious effect of "laundering" conscience; maybe that's why the American people haven't insisted on a Peace Tax Fund.

In that courtroom, the hidden essence of our governmental/legal system showed itself to be distrust and delegation of authority--kind of a Cold War against the conscience--and while some of us felt it, and even saw the hint of an alternative right in that courtroom, I think others had to fight not to.

The IRS, by failing to recognize that land trust property is not the usual kind of property that can be simply bought and sold with a direct exchange of money and pieces of paper, made a big mistake in seizing this particular property in its showcase action. Defendant Vince O'Connor made it clear that the question of who has the right to control the land around the house is, at the very least, an unsettled question, injunction or no injunction. The presiding judge had to rather lamely pass the buck by saying the copy of the injunction he held was a "certified copy"--therefore legal. He couldn't question the merits of the injunction, he said.

Even if a court someday upholds that injunction--or confirms the IRS seizure and auction of the house as well as the leasehold--the question will remain, in a space beyond legalism: if a land trust is created specifically to introduce stability into property use and ownership, by requiring transactions to take more than just a willing buyer and a willing seller, can even a branch of the federal government override it?

Many land trusts are created to modify the excesses of the free market; by what authority may the government smash them?

Finally, Steve's court case spotlighted the ratcheting-up of the drama between our authoritarian tax system and people who simply ask to be allowed to live free with their consciences intact. The law enforcement apparatus finds itself having to choose between disobeying its own strictures and locking up for ever-increasing periods of time people expecting/demanding to be permitted to live less violent lives. State police and courts are apparently learning to accept the sincerity of this dogged new kind of tax "criminal" in Colrain; there are no fire hoses or Mace attacks. It's impossible to predict, but maybe some real gains are being made here in Western Massachusetts to bring authority back home, shifting toward personal and away from delegated risk, toward the inner and away from the institutional ...toward a more complete society of more completely functioning (and deeply non-violent) people like my friend Steve Broll.

Jonathan von Ranson

The Athol Hospital Name Game

Calcification.

Sometimes, for reasons that are not fully understood, irregularities in the cellular structure of the breast can lead to tiny calcifications. That's what the radiologist looks for when she studies your mammography film. These calcifications may be pre-cancerous, but if they are detected early enough, they can be monitored, or surgically removed.

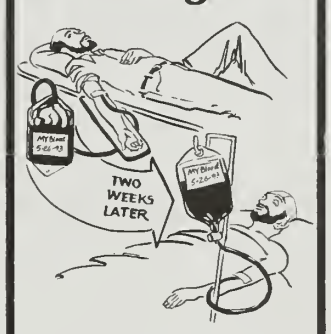
Mammography is an important tool in the early detection of breast cancer. But a "good" mammogram does not mean clear sailing. Every women should also learn how to perform regular self-examination and should visit a physician if anything unusual is detected. Contact the Athol Memorial Hospital radiology department for information about our mammography service and ask for a free pamphlet.

IV Pyelogram.

Taking a picture of an arm or leg that might be broken is a relatively simple job for an x-ray department. For a good image of other parts of the body, the task is more difficult. For example, to diagnose problems with the kidneys, bladder and related "plumbing," your doctor may ask you to go to the hospital for an intravenous (IV) pyelogram (pronounced PIE-lo-gram).

This examination involves a dye or contrast agent being injected into a vein (in your arm) while a series of x-rays is taken. Our x-ray technologists and radiologist use state-of-the-art equipment to help them answer the questions your doctor has posed about the insides of your body. Always, the least invasive procedure is chosen for the first step in diagnosis.

Autologous.



Since 1992, patients electing non-emergency surgery have an important option at Athol Memorial Hospital: autologous blood. With autologous (pronounced awe-TOL-uh-guss) blood, patients have their own blood drawn prior to surgery, usually over a period of two or three weeks. Then, if a transfusion is needed during surgery, the patient's own blood can be used.

Every pint in the blood bank at Athol Memorial (operated in conjunction with the American Red Cross) has been tested for AIDS and hepatitis. Although the Red Cross strives for the highest standards of purity, there is no such thing as a 100% guarantee. With autologous blood, patients gain an extra margin of safety. For more information, talk to your surgeon or call the laboratory at AMH.

"The best little hospital in Massachusetts."

Athol Memorial Hospital

"In the community. For the community."

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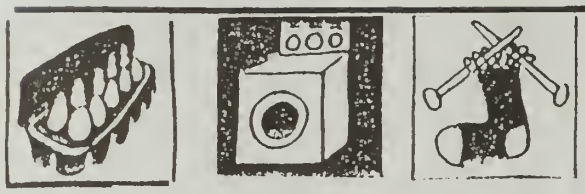
An affiliate of the University of Massachusetts Medical Center



Good Neigbors "ACTION"!
Fooo! Music! DANCE!

The GOODNEIGHBORS met
on Sun. Dec.5, 1993 at 5:00 pm
at the Wendell Library, with 8 present

FUND RAISING was discussed as money is needed to purchase food from the food bank. The first event will be a...

CHRISTMAS DANCE on Dec. 17 at 7:30
at the Wendell Town Hall: $3-$5
come join in the festivities !!
* * * * *
3 BANDS...BAKED GOODS...PIZZA...
PRIZES....and sur-prizes!!

Later in the year we may have a raffle, service auction and special Good Neighbors supper. If you have suggestions or talents to lend please let us know.

We are looking forward to hearing the results of a grant application that may provide for various kinds of assistance to the Food Pantry.

One of the main goals of the Council is to improve the space where the food is located by expanding the storage areas and providing necessary equipment.

Volunteers are still needed to help with food handling on Sundays between 3:30 pm and 5 pm and also with fund-raising projects. We want to make it possible for people to get what food they need on a weekly basis. Our funds are low now...just at the time when gardens are no longer producing.

ALL are WELCOME at the FOOD PANTRY
at the Senior Center every
Sunday between 4 pm and 5 pm...
and at the ***Council Meeting*** on the first Sunday of each month at 5 pm at the Senior Center. THANKS to all who are helping in this COMMUNITY effort.
Next MEETING of the Council will be
on Sun.Jan 16 at 5 pm
at the Senior Center
(Third Sun. instead of 1st because of the January Holiday) - Joann Aalfs

"Grazing at Swallow Rise"

Bob Ellis Donates Painting for Meeting House Benefit Raffle

Wendell resident artist Bob Ellis has captured a beautiful moment of two deer, a doe and a buck, grazing in a Wendell field. Bob has given this gift to the Wendell Meeting House for us to raffle towards the cost of purchasing insulation to be installed in the walls of the Meeting House.

Tickets will be $1 a piece or six for $5. Our goal is to raise $500. Raffle date to be announced. We will also gratefully accept donations of money or a commitment of labor towards our renovation project. The painting may be viewed at the Wendell Country Store. (Tickets there also!) "Grazing at Swallow Rise" is matted and framed by Burt Newton of Athol.

Thanks also to Jerry Eide for his work on the bell tower and his expert advice on historical buildings. Please call Mez at 544-7542 for info, etc. –Mez Davis

The Enchanted Forest

The Enchanted Forest After-School Arts & Recreational Program has moved to the Swift River School. It is thriving in its new, comfortable and convenient space. Swift River's principal and teachers have been very supportive and are helping the program to succeed.

The Enchanted Forest children and staff put on a delightful performance of Native American song at Swift River's Community Sing on November 24.

December 6 is Open-House Day where parents and friends are invited to attend the classes. Beeswax ornaments and a clay project will be worked on.

The December calendar includes all sorts of holiday craft-making, full moon and winter solstice celebrations, and putting on a play, "Starchild."

Please call Gail Krutka for information or sign-up at:
544-0976 (at the Enchanted Forest)
544-6362 (home).

Gloria Kegeles

Looking for the perfect gift?

Delight your loved ones with an inexpensive, all natural, sooo versatile, delicious cooking sauce...and it's locally made, too!

No Holiday Should Be Without It!

Find it in your local fine food stores or call 544-2086

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FAX: 413-772-2199

John "Klondike" Koehler

WENDELL'S ORIGINAL

FULL MOON COFFEEHOUSE

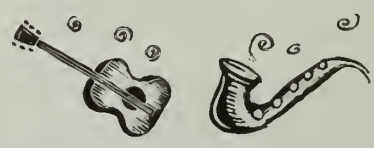
Dec. 18th 7:30 P
Raelinda Wood
&
Medicine String Band

Jan. 29th
Wholesale Kletzmer Band

Feb. 26th
Ed Vadas & the Heavy Weights

March 26th
Vance Gilbert

April 23rd
Erica Wheeler



- Open Mike at 7:30
- Dessert-O-Rama
- Always a Benefit!
- Sliding Scale Admission

At the Town Hall
Wendell, Massachusetts